

**Marquesas Region**

Ecosystem Protection Working Group concepts presented for potential modifications to marine zones in the Marquesas region. The below table reflects working group discussion, zone and regulation concepts, issues to note, and status of working group decision. The following are Ecosystem Protection Working Group Marquesas Region recommendation for the Sanctuary Advisory Council.

Area	Rationale	Zone Concept	Regulation Concept	Consensus
Western Dry Rocks	research noted an identified spawning aggregation area, distinct upwelling and bottom geology have been identified. Need to protect the area to promote recovery and reseeded of the fish aggregation. Protection is necessary as this appears to be the most well-known and studied aggregation in the Keys.	Create a zone in the area of Western Dry Rocks to protect the area of known fish aggregations	No preliminary regulation concept recommended, however discussion was noted that if an area is closed it should be closed for all use.	Show of hands in favor of this concept 9 of 13.
<b>Issues to Consider for and associated Concepts:</b> <p>Noted the need for more data and the ability to use those data to help identify other special areas in the Marquesas region that could be protected with less impact on users needs to be a very clear boundary of area identified and considered for potential additional regulation.</p> <p>Noted that this is a really important area for fishermen in Key West. If this area is closed, displacement of fishing pressure will take place</p> <p>Need to be proactive to set aside special places (small as possible) to promote long term ecosystem health. Protecting Western Dry Rocks is a good ecosystem protection decision. A good insurance policy for fishing, diving, tourism, ecosystem protection.</p> <p>Reduction of bag limit of mutton snapper for recreational fishing could greatly reduce number of mutton spawning fish taken; consider a vessel limit ( Vessel limit discussed in relation to head-boat)</p>				
Marquesas Harbor	Rationale includes minimizing impact to ecosystem, region is one area that could promote additional protection and try a new management tool through catch and release.	Concept 1: Create a catch and release zone within the Marquesas Islands	Concept 2: No take, and release, allow an exception for bait-fishing. Always allow leeward anchoring.	Show of hands - no support for concept.
	Safety.		Concept 3: No recommendation for Marquesas harbor area, however if something were to be proposed in this area, recommend no regulation change that would affect the ability of a vessel to anchor in the Marquesas island region, regardless of weather.	Show of hands for Concept 3: 9 in favor of 11
<b>Issues to Consider for and associated Concepts:</b> <p>Noted that the area would have to always be kept open for leeward anchoring; need to provide exception for vessels seeking safe harbor that might have fish product aboard if the Marquesas are a no-take zone (catch and release only) this will create a legal and enforceability issue due to the need for vessels to anchor within and near the Marquesas for safety. If those vessels have product aboard, that creates a challenge. Area of note is Mooney Harbor and other leeward areas.</p> <p>Noted that this creates additional layer of management to resources that are already managed by a Fishery Management Plan.</p> <p>Concerned about the issue of selective user areas, gets tricky to manage, enforce, and creates an issue with user compliance.</p>				
Mid-Channel Patch Reefs	These are resilient reef areas with populations of rare coral species. ensure representative habitats are protected from as much impact as possible to promote health of these regions. This is a management approach to ensure protection of the range of habitats.	No zone concept recommended	No regulation concept recommended	Issues noted, No show of hands taken.
<b>Issues to Consider for and associated Concepts:</b> <p>Needs more data to evaluate. At present the data available does not clearly indicate why or why not to provide additional protection for patch reefs or deep reefs in the Marquesas region. Need to have a clear why if we are making a decision to change the allowed use.</p> <p>Request more research, particularly to the areas to the west that are down-stream from Western Sambo.</p>				
Resilient Reefs	high resilience reefs seem to make sense as an area to explore for targeted coral restoration.	No zone concept recommended	No regulation concept recommended, however noted that if an area is selected for restoration it does not necessarily have to impact use of that area.	Issues noted, No show of hands taken.
<b>Issues to Consider for and associated Concepts:</b> <p>Discussed challenges and requirements of getting a permit issued.</p> <p>Coral reef restoration sites should be established at the best location for restoration work as determined by scientists</p>				